A NARRATIVE OF THE Causes and Events OF CIVIL-WAR BETWEEN Princes and People.

(13)

TOGETHER WITH

The manner how the People of *Rome*, and of the *Netherlands* Rejected and Abjured their King and Kingly Government; with the form of their Oaths of ABJURATION, Extracted out of the *Roman* and *Netherlands* Hiſtory.

AS LIKEWISE,

Some *Objections* now in Conteſt concerning the taking of the like Oath in this *Common-Wealth*, examined and Anſwered, if not for Satisfaction, at leaſt for Information of ſuch as are concerned.

By *F. M.*

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A NARRATIVE OF THE CAUSES and EVENTS OF Civil-Warre BETWEEN PRINCES & PEOPLE.

IN the Alterations that happen sometimes in a *State* betwixt the *Prince* and a *People* that is Free and Priviledged; there are ordinarily two Points which make them to aim at two several ends: The *One* is, when as the Prince seeks to have a full subjection and Obedience of the People: And the *Other*, that the People contrariwise require that the Prince should maintain them in their freedoms and liberties

which he hath promised and Sworn solemnely unto them before his Reception unto the Government; thereupon Quarrels grow, the Prince will hold a hard hand, and will by force endeavour to be Obeyed according to Will and Pleasure; and the People rising against the Prince oftentimes (upon success) do reject his Authority, and seek to imbrace and maintain their full liberties.

In these first Motions there happens sometimes Conferences at the instance of Neighbours or others in the Nation, who may have interest therein to quench this fire of Division betwixt the Prince and his Subjects; and then if any one of the parties groweth obstinate and will not yield, although he seem to be most in fault, it followeth of necessity that they must come to more violent Remedies, that is to say, to Arms: The power of the Prince is great when he is supported by other Princes which joyn with him for the consequence of the Example, else its but small. But that of the People, which is the Body, whereof the Prince is the Head, stirred up by Conscience, especially if the Question of Religion be touched; the Members ordained for their Function doing lawfully their Duties is far greater; thereupon they Wound, they Kill, they Burn, they Ruine, and grow desparate of each side; but what is the Event, God who is an Enemy to all Tyranny and Disobedience judged of their Quarrels, weigheth them in his Ballance of Justice, helping the rightful Cause, and either causeth the Prince for his Rigour, Oppression, and Tyranny to be punished and chased away, and deprived of his Estate and Principality; or the People for their Attempt to be punished and brought to Reason, which causeth the alteration to cease, and procureth a Peace; whereof there are many Examples, both Ancient and Modern, besides this ensuing Narrative of the People of *Rome* and the *Netherlands*.

Tarquinius Superbus being the 7th and last King of *Rome*, after he had Reigned twenty five years was banished from thence, together with the whole Kingly Government, which had then lasted 243 years before the People could shake

shake off that Oppressive yoak of their Kings, which they effected in the manner, and for the Causes following.

Sextus Tarquinus, Son to King *Tarquin* the Tyrant, being full of Lust and Cruelty, came to *Lucretia's* House at *Colatia*, a place not far distant from *Rome*, where he had been before kindly entertained by her Husband *Colatinus*, who at that time was absent; and being after Supper brought into the Guest-Chamber, and when he thought all sure, and that every body was fast asleep, he steppeth with naked Sword in hand to *Lucretia* as she lay in a profound sleep; who starting out of her sleep, heard *Tarquinus* speak in this manner; *I am* Sextus Tarquinus, *I have my drawn Sword in hand, if thou once speak thou shalt surely die; and if thou wilt not yield to me, I will kill thee; and for thy perpetual shame and dishonour, will cut the throat of thy Servant, and lay him naked by thee, that so it may be rumoured abroad that thou hast been kill'd in Adultery:* Whereupon by violence and force he had her Company; The next morning *Lucretia* did send for her Father and Husband, who brought along with them *Valerius* and *Brutus*, to whom (when they came) she told that *Sextus Tarquinus* was the man, who that night past entertained as a Friend, but indeed a very Foe in the highest degree, had by force and violence taken from hence his pleasure; a deadly pleasure I may say to me, and to himself no less, if you be men of Courage.

Vide The first Book of *Titus Livius*, page 41,42.

All of them gave their assured word and comforted her; whereupon she said, *Well, what is his due to have, see you to that; as for me, I quit and assoil my self from sin, yet I will not be freed from punishment*, and after other words uttered, with a knife hid under her cloaths, stab'd her self; out cryed her Husband and Father thereat, and while they two were in their plaints and moans, *Brutus* drew forth the knife out of the wound of *Lucretia*, holding it out all embrewed and dropping with bloud; said, *Now I sweat by this blood, by this most chaste and pure blood, before the villanny wrought by the Kings Son, and here before the Gods I protest whom I call to witness, that I will by Fire and Sword, and with all my might and main, per-*

secure [illegible] *the Countrey of* Tarquinus, *the proud and his imperious* [illegible], *and the* [illegible] *brood of his Children, and suffer neither him nomany else for his sake to reign* [illegible] *King at Rome*; Then gave he [illegible] *Lucretius*, and *Valerius* who took the same Oath, and leaving their lamentations followed *Brutus* as their Captain and Leader, to put down and overthrow the Government of Kings, and utterly to root out the Race; The dead Corps of *Lucretia* was brought in the Market-place, and there shewed to the people, who with wondering at such a sight, and so foul and unworthy a fact, they raised much People together, every man for his part was ready to complain of the wickednesse and violence done by the Kings Blood; *Brutus* who rebuked all vain weeping and foolish moaning, moved and perswaded all that were present, *that like men of valour, like true-hearted* Romans, *they would take Arms against those that demeaned themselves no better, nay worse then ordinary Enemies.*

Thereupon all the People Armed themselves, and towards *Rome* they went, where in the Market place he related to the people then assembled the villany committed upon *Lucretia*; And moreover he laid abroad the pride of the King himself, the miseries, the infinite toil and pain of the Commons buried as it were under ground, with cleansing and casting of Ditches, voiding and farming of the Sinks; saying that the men of *Rome* who were the Conquerors of all Nations about them, *were now of Warriors become Quarriors, hewers of Stone, and day-labourers*; thus rehearsing these and other matters, much more grievous and horrible, he so mightily inflamed the multitude, that he caused the King to be deposed and degraded of his Royal State and dignity, yea and to decree and enact, that King *Tarquinus* and his Wife and Children should be banished for ever, which accordingly was effected; and after all the Armies and people had forsaken him, *Brutus* being then appointed Consul, and for fear least the Magistrates and people might at any time after be won by entreaty, or moved by gifts on the Kings part, he caused them to swear, *that they would never suffer any to be King at Rome*, after which

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the Senate was fil'd with such as took the same Oath, in lieu of those that were murthered by the Kings command, to the full number of three hundred; so jealous were the people afterwards of their Liberties, that one of their Consuls name being *Tarquins*, without they could have any other thing to lay against him but his Name, who they said *was dangerous to a Free-State*, thereupon was perswaded to retire from the City, and *Brutus* by an act and decree of the Senate, propoled to the people, *That all the Race and Lineage of the* Tarquin's *should be exiled and banished*, which was accordingly effected. *Vide* The second Book of *Titus Livius*, p. 44, 45.

No man doubted then, but that the *Tarquins* were about to take Arms, but seeing that no man feared, the *Romans* had like by Fraud and Treason at home, to have lost and foregon their freedoms again, and that the Reader may know that the very same thing endeavoured at *Rome* to restore the *Tarquins*, is that which hath several times been, and at present is endeavoured in *England*; The story is briefly thus;

There were certain Youths of the flower of *Rome*, descended of no low Degree nor Parentage, who in the Kings dayes had lived like young Princes, more loosely and at pleasure as Companions and play-fellows with the young *Tarquins* the Kings sons, who seeking to enjoy the same licentious life still in this Equality of state, wherein all others then lived, made moan and Complained one to another, that the liberty of others turned to their servitude. The King say they, Is a man at whose hand one might obtain somewhat as need requireth, were the cause right or were it wrong, where a man might find favour and friendship, as who could be displeased and angry, and also forgive and remit a fault, and knew well how to make difference between a friend and a foe; As for Laws they are deaf and inexorable, more wholesome and commodious to the poor then to the rich and mighty, affording no release or pardon, if one chance to trespasse and transgresse, and a tickliih Point it is and perilous for a man amongst so many errors, whereto our frailty is subject, to bear himself onely upon *Vide* The same Book, page 45, 46, 47.

upon his innocent life; being thus of their own accord already discontent, (as it may boldly be averred the young Nobility and others of the loose people of *England* are, at this time upon the like account) suddenly unlooks for came Ambassadors to *Rome* from King *Tarquinius*, who without mention at all of return, demanded onely their goods again, and while the businesse was in debate in the Senate, these Ambassadors privately sounded the minds of these young Gentle-men, whom they found ready to conspire with them for the return of the King. The Ambassadors having obtained the restauration of the Kings goods, and ready to depart, had private meetings with those young Gentle-men, who for assurance of their fidelity to the King, signed a Letter which they delivered to the said Ambassadors, all which was detected by a bond-slave, who had overheard them when they delivered the Letter, presently giving notice thereof to the Consul, who apprehended the said Ambassadors, and found the said letter, and thereupon all the Conspirators were apprehended; And to see how much *Pagans* made esteem of their Oaths and Protestations, *Brutus* then Consul, having two of his Sons, to wit, *Titus* and *Tiberius*, who were in the Conspiracy, himself saw them executed, and being bound at a Stake, the people pitied them not so much for being punished, as for deserving by their fact to be punished, that they could find in their hearts, and once let enter into their thoughts, to betray into the hands of *Tarquinius* (a proud Prince, and then a cruel enemy and banished Rebel) their Native Countrey, lately, and in that very year set free from Captivity, and their Natural Father who set it free. Now for the Kings goods which were ordered to be restored, were flatly afterwards denied by the Senate, who would not confiscate and bring them to the Publick Treasury, but were given away amongst the Commons, to the end they having once touched or seized on the Kings goods, as a booty, might for ever after be past all hope of any peace or favour with them.

Not long afterwards *Tarquin* obliged King *Porcena* with a

cruel

cruel Army to march againſt *Rome*, & to endeavour the reſtoring of him to the Kingdom, and to ſhew how much it conduceth to the ſafety of a Commonwealth that the People thereof ſhould engage againſt the baniſhed Kings, and abſolutely to abjure and renounce them and their line for ever, and how far ſuch an Oath doth engage a People to keep them out, take this ſhort ſtory of King *Porcena*, being with his Army at the very walls of *Rome*, and in great hope to take it and reſtore *Tarquin*, one *Cajus Mucius* afterwards ſurnamed *Scævola*, together with others of the *Romans*, to the number of 300, engaged one with another to venture their lives in going to the Camp of *Porcena*, and to kill him, rather then ſuffer their Country to be again enſlaved. It fell to the lot of this *Scævola* to go firſt, and coming into the Camp with a ſcain hid under his garment; he preſſeth in the thickeſt throng to ſtand near the Kings Tribunal; it happened, that then and their the Souldiers were receiving their pay, and the Chancellor or King *Porcenas* principal Secretary ſate together with the King in like array; *Scævola* fearing to enquire whether of them two were *Porcena*, leaſt he ſhould diſcover himſelf, in lieu of *Porcena* he killed the Chancellor, and afterwards with his bloody weapon making his way through the fearful multitude, was laid hold on and brought before King *Porcena* ſitting then upon his Throne, to whom he ſaid, *I am a Citizen of* Rome, *and* Cajus Mucius *is my name, a profeſſed Enemy I confeſſe, and an Enemy would I have ſlain, as ready and willing am I to die my ſelf as I was to kill another, for both to do and ſuffer valiantly is the part of a Noble* Roman, *and its not I alone that carry this reſolution, againſt thee O King, there is a long train behind of them that ſeek to win the ſame praiſe and honour, make thee ready therefore and arm thy ſelf if thou think good againſt this danger, and reckon every hour to be in hazard of thy life, and to have alwayes at the very Court gates thy Enemies ſword; This kind of War we youths of* Rome *denounce openly to thee, no battel, no fight elſe ſhalt thou need to fear, with thee alone will we all one by one have to do, and with no other.* Hereat King *Porcena* incenſed with wrath, and for the danger he ſtood in affrighted withall, commanded in menacing wiſe, that he ſhould be fryed at a ſtake, unleſs he would preſently unfold

Vide, The ſecond Book of *Titus Livius* page 49, to 54.

in plain terms what secret and dangerous practices he meant, and threatned under covert circuit of words and intricate circumstances; Lo, said he again, *how little they set by this carcase that aspires to great glory and aim at honour*, and with that thrust his right hand into the hearth of fire that was made for the sacrifice, and when he endured the roasting thereof, as if he had been senceless and felt no pain, the King well nigh astonished at this wonderful and miraculous sight, started up from his Royal Seat and Chair of State, commanding the young man to be had from the Altar: Go thy wayes (said he) in peace, thou hast done thy self more mischief then thou hast attempted against my person, I would say God blesse thee, and worthy hast thou been of honour for thy profess, if it were in my service and in the behalf and defence of my own Country, and now by the Law of War I discharge thee freely and give thee leave to depart without any hurt or abuse offered unto thee. Then *Scævola* as it were to requite his courtesie and desert, said, *Forasmuch as thou settest so great esteem in valour, and honourest vertue so highly, to the end it may be seen, that thou shalt get at my hands by courtesie that which by cruel threats thou couldst not, these are therefore to let thee understand, that there are 300. of us Noble youths, even the very flower and Knighthood of* Rome, *that have conspired and swore thy death, and in this manner to assail thee; my lot it was to be the first, the rest as it shall fall out will be here very shortly and wait every man his turn and time until they hit right upon thee*; *Scævola* was no sooner gone back to *Rome*, but suddenly followed after him Ambassadours from *Porcena*, offering the *Romans* conditions of Peace, which was agreed, and *Porcena* withdrew his Army from *Rome*. But sometimes after sent other Ambassadours again to *Rome* to treat about restoring the *Tarquins* to the Realm, to whom the *Romans* answered, that the Senate would send Ambassadours to King *Porcena* himself, who accordingly were dispatched, and delivered the speech following, that the chief of their Nobles were sent rather then any dispatch given by word of mouth to his Ambassadours at *Rome*, not for that they could have shapen them this short answer, they will no Kings have, but to this end that for ever after there should be no suite renewed of that matter; nor in so great

great mutual benefits and favours passed between them, some discontentment arise on either side while he might be thought to request that which is repugnant and prejudiciall to the liberty of *Rome*, and the *Romans* again (unless they would be executors of their own wrongs, and seek their own destruction) to make denyal unto him, whom by their good wills they would not seem to deny any thing of the world. But as to the substance of the matter this was the point, namely that the people of *Rome* were not under the Government of Kings, but were a free State, and fully setled in this purpose, to set open their gates sooner unto Enemies then to Kings, and were generally of this mind and resolution, that when the Freedom of that City had an end, then should the City come to an end also, to conclude therefore they were to entreat him that if he tendred the Weal and saletie of *Rome*, he would permit them to be free still at their own Liberty; King *Porcena* overcome with very modestie and much abased himself, answered thus again, Since you are so fully minded and stifly bent (said he) neither will I importune you, nor dull your ears with harping still upon this unpleasing string, and do no good, nor bear the *Tarquins* any longer in hand, and deceive them of that hope of ayde, which nothing at all is in my power to perform, let them henceforth seek any other place of Exile either for peace or War as they shall think most expedient, that there may be nothing to let and hinder the free course of amity and alliance between me and you. Thus *Tarquinius* seeing all hopes of return cut off, removed to *Tuscalum*, and afterwards died at *Cumes*.

Thus Reader thou haſt a ſhort Narrative of the Cauſe and Manner of the Baniſhment of the Kings of *Rome*, and what courſe the Romans took to keep them out from ever returning. Now followeth that of the *Netherlands*, in freeing themſelves from the yoak of *Philip* the King of *Spain*, as it is extracted out of the Edict or Declaration of the General Eſtates of the *Netherlands*, dated at the *Hague* the 26th of *July*, 1581.

Vide, The General Hiſtory of the *Netherlands*, written by *Grimeſton* and *Croſs*, and Printed in the year 1627.

Vide, The 12 Book, page 659. to page 666.

TO all thoſe that theſe Preſents ſhall ſee, read or hear, Greeting; As it is well known unto all men, that a Prince and Lord of a Country is ordained by God to be Soveraign & Head over his Subjects, and to preſerve and defend them from all injuries, force and violence, even as a Shepherd for the defence of his ſheep, and that the Subjects are not created by God for the Prince to obey him in all he ſhall Command, be it with God or againſt him, reaſonable or unreaſonable, nor to ſerve him as Slaves and Bond men; but rather the Prince is ordained for his Subjects (without which he cannot be a Prince) to Govern them according to Law, Equity and Reaſon, to take care for them and to love them, even as a Father doth his Children, or a Shepherd his Sheep, who putteth both his body and life in danger, to defend and preſerve them; If the Prince therefore faileth herein, and inſtead of preſerving his Subjects, doth outrage and oppreſs them, depriveth them of their priviledges and antient Cuſtoms, commandeth them and would be ſerved of them as of ſlaves, they are no longer bound to reſpect him as their Soveraign Prince and Lord, but to eſteem of him as of a Tyrant; Neither are the Subjects (according unto Law and Reaſon) bound to acknowledge him as their Prince, ſo as without any offence being done with Deliberation and Authority of the States of the Countrey, they may freely abandon him, eſpecially, when as the Subjects by humble Suite, Entreaty and Admonitions could never mollifie their Princes heart, nor divert him from his Enterpriſe and Tyrannous deſigns, ſo as they have no other means left them to preſerve their antient Liberties, their Wives, Chil-

Children and Posterity, for the which (according to the Law of Nature), they are bound to expose both Life and Goods, as for the like occasion we have seen it to fall out often in divers Countreys, whereof the examples are yet fresh in memory, which ought especially to be of force in these Countreys, who have always been and ought to be Governed according to the Oath taken by their Princes, when they receive them, conformable to their Priviledge and antient Custome, having no power to infringe them; besides, that most part of the said Provinces have always received and admitted their Princes and Lords upon certain Conditions and sworn Contracts, which if the Prince shall violate, he is by Right fallen from the Rule and Superiority of the Countrey, &c.

And after they have made a Recital of his Cruelties, Oppressions and Tyrannies, they further proceed.

THat having duly considered all these things, and being prest by extreme necessity, We have by a General Resolution and Consent, Declared, and do Declare by these Presents, the King of Spain *(ipso jure) to be fallen from the Seignory, Principality, Jurisdiction and Inheritance of these Countreys; and that we are Resolved never to acknowledge him any more in any matter concerning the Prince, Jurisdictions or Demean of these* Netherlands, *nor to use hereafter, neither yet to suffer any other to use his Name as Soveraign Lord thereof, according to which we Declare all Officers, private Noble men, Vassals and other Inhabitants of these Countreys, of what Condition or Quality soever, to be from henceforth discharged of the Oath which they have made in any manner whatsoever unto the King of* Spain, *as Lord of these Countries, or of that whereby they may be bound unto him, &c. Enjoyning and Commanding all Judges, Officers and all others to whom it shall appertain, That hereafter they forbear to use any more the Name, Titles, great Seal or Signet of the King of* Spain, *and have Injoyned and Commanded, and do Injoyn and Command, that all the King of* Spain. *Seals which are at this present within these United Provinces, shall be delivered into the Sates hands, and that from henceforth the Name and Armes of the King of* Spain, *shall not be*

put nor ſtampt in any Coyns of theſe United Provinces, but that there ſhall be ſuch a figure ſet upon them as ſhall be appointed, &c. In like ſort we Injoyn and Command the Preſidents and Lords of the Councel and all other Chancellours, Preſidents, Provincial Counſuls, and all Preſidents & chief Maſters of Accounts & others of all Chambers of Accounts, being reſpectively in theſe Countreys, and alſo all other Judges and Officers, as holding them diſcharged of the Oath which they have made to the King of Spain, *according to the Tenure of the Commiſſions, that they ſhall take a New Oath in the hands of the States of the Provinces where they are, or to their Deputies, whereby they ſhall Swear to be faithful to us againſt the King of* Spain *and his Adherents, according to the Form ſet down by us; which Oath accordingly was taken by the Publick Officers and Magiſtrates of every Town and Province, and is as followeth:*

I Swear, that hereafter I ſhall not ſerve nor yield obedience to *Philip* King of *Spain*, nor acknowledge him for my Prince and Lord, whom I do Renounce by theſe Preſents, and do hold my ſelf Free from all Oaths and Bands by the which I might be formerly tyed unto him. Whereof finding my ſelf preſently Freed, I Swear anew, and bind my ſelf to the United Provinces, and namely, to them of *Brabandt*, *Guelder*, *Hollandt*, *Zealandt*, and their Allies, and to the Soveraign Magiſtrates that are appointed, to be Faithful and Loyal unto them, to yield them all Obedience, aid and Comfort with all my Power and means, againſt the King of *Spain* and his Adherents, and againſt all the Enemies of the Countrey, promiſing as a good Subject of the Countrey to carry my ſelf Faithfully and Loyally, with ſhew of all Obedience to my Superiors; So, help me the Almighty God.

Many notwithſtanding made great difficulty to Abjure the King and to take the New Oath, among others a Councellour

of *Frieſlandt*, a man of great Judgement and Experience, called *Raalda*, hearing the Abjuration propounded in open Councel at *Leuwarden*, and the renewing of the Oath (whether it were through a ſudden amazement, or for the affection which he bare to the *King* of *Spain*) was ſo troubled, as he fell in a Convulſion and died preſently.

Now impartial Reader, that you have ſeen a ſhort and true Narrative extracted out of antient and modern Hiſtory, whereby you may receive ſatisfaction of the cauſes wherefore the *Romans* and our Neighbours of the *Netherlands* Rejected and Renounced their *Kings* and kingly Office, and how they provided againſt their ever returning to Rule over them; upon the whole matter it may be queried, whether the Parliament and good People of *England*, after God had ſo ſignally and miraculouſly owned their Cauſe againſt the late *King* and Family, have not had an equivalent or far greater Cauſe to Free theſe three Nations of the yoak of *Monarchs* and *Monarchy*, then the *Romans* or the States of the *Netherlands* had, which any one may eaſily be convinced of, if he will but take the paine and time to read the Hiſtory of the Reign of the *Kings* of *England*, *Scotland*, &c. but eſpecially from the coming of that Baſtard brood to the late Tyrant; What murthers, rapines, oppreſſions, wars, devaſtations, cruelties, raviſhments and what not have been acted in the three Nations, during that time? I ſhall onely hint to ſome few, as firſt of *King John*, of whom the Hiſtory relates, that when he had endeavoured by force of Armes and by other barbarous cruelties to impoſe his yoak of bondage and ſlavery over his People, whom he forced to take up Armes for his own defence, and that after they had obtained ſeveral victories againſt him, whereby he was reduced to great extreams, yet would not grant them Peace, till he had made Tryal of all manner of cruel wayes to ſubdue them by force, one whereof was, that rather then grant to the People their Liberties and Freedoms, he ſent to the *King* of the *Moors*, and made him an offer that if he would ſend an Army in *England*, he would deliver up his right and title to him.

But to come nearer our time, what cruel Murtherer and Tyrant was *Richard* the third and *Henry* the 8th. his own Queens

and

and many of his Nobles could not escape his fury, and that for no other crime but to satisfie his cruelty, lust and pleasure; so notorious was he, that to this day the Proverb remaineth resent of him, *That he neither spared man in his fury, nor woman in his lust.* Queen *Mary* another fury, how many pretious Souls she caused to be brought to the stake and burned. King *James*, so little he esteemed the lives of the People (although no man of War) yet (if by accident) any one hindred his sport in Hunting, or not opened a Gate as soon as he commanded, he would curse and swear, and give express command that such a one should be hanged; And for his Son, what wars, desolations and miseries hath he been authour of in the 3 Nations, how many thousands killed and ruined, how many millions of Treasure exhausted, what Plots contrived by him and his Queen to subvert Law and Religion in these Nations, his inviting of the *German* Horse in time of Peace, and in time of War pawn the Jewels of the Crown, to bring over whole Regiments of Papists, to kill, destroy, plunder, ravish and barbarously use the Protestant People of this Nation; And moreover of my certain knowledge their sending Sir *Kelom Digbys* to the *Pope* for Assistance, &c.

The realty of these unparallel'd actings being seriously considered, and all by-ends and self-interest laid aside, and onely that of the Publick eyed upon, then it must needs be acknowledged, that besides those enormities, that many *Lucretias* have been ravished by those Kings and their Interest, and that their wars, devastations and cruelties have far exceeded either those of the *Tarquin's*, or Kings of *Spain* at *Rome* or in the *Netherlands*; in *Rome* the ravishing of one *Lucretia* (by the Kings son) was the principal occasion of the Peoples banishing and abjuring the whole brood of their Kings; and in the *Netherlands* the oppression and cruelty of the King of *Spain* occasioned the States of that Countrey to do the like; Weigh but the one and the other together in the Ballance of Justice and Reason, against the cruelties and licentious wills of our Kings, and you will be sure to find them light and inconsiderable; as to what hath been exercised here since the *Normans* subdued *England* under their heavy and oppressive yoak,

yoak; that in reason it must be acknowledged and granted that for the safety of the People, the Parliament of *England* have (after their so many signal Victories, and their ownings of God for the same) far more and justifiable reasons, to renounce and cause to be renounced, the whole Line of the *Kings* and kingship, or other single Persons pretending any right or title of Chief Magistrates over these Nations, then either the *Romans* or State of the *Netherlands* had in renouncing and abjuring their King and kingship; against which Oath it may be Objected,

First, *That the Oath of Abjuration taken by the* Romans *and* Netherlands *could not be advantagious to them as for the keeping out their Kings from returning, and that (say some) because any wicked man to bring his designs to pass, will make no Difficulty nor Conscience to swallow any manner of Oaths.*

To which it may be Answered, that this short Narrative extracted out of the History, is sufficient to remove that Objection; for first, It is not to be doubted, had it not been for the Oath taken by the *Romans* against the return of their Kings, undoubtedly they had never been kept out.

And secondly for the States of the *Netherlands*, It was not onely useful to weed out of their Armies and Garrisons all the friends of the *King* of *Spain*, and likewise out of the Courts of Justice and other places of eminent trust; and certainly, if the hearing of it read and proposed could have so much power as to kill that Great and Wise Counsellor, how much more dreadful was it to all others of the *King* of *Spains* faction and party, who several of them upon refusal of the said Oath were displaced out of their several imployments; and besides it is very remarkable, that after it was imposed upon all Military Officers, there was neither Garrisons nor Forces betrayed to the *King* of *Spain*, as formerly before it was daily observed there was; whereupon the *King* of *Spain* was forced to make Peace with them.

And thirdly, It is impossible for the rarest Artists of the world to erect any lasting Fabrick upon an old Foundation, unless first the rubish and old ruine thereof be absolutely removed and cast out, so likewise and comparatively it is impos-

ſible of a Monarchical Government to introduce and eſtabliſh upon a ſure baſis a Democratical Government, without firſt caſting off and renouncing that old ruinous and rubiſh Government of King and kingſhip, which if it had been effected in the year 1648 when theſe Nations were declared a Free State, by impoſing an Oath of that nature upon thoſe Perſons then eminently intruſted in Civil & Military places, there is ſufficient ground to believe that *Cromwell* nor his Adherents would never have attempted to ſubvert and uſurp the Government as they did, which hath in a manner almoſt ruined both the Cauſe and Nation; and for want of taking ſuch an Oath, we ſee what hopes the Family of the *Stuarts* and other ſingle Perſons have had and have ſtill to return, which will never be removed, until (in imitation of our Neighbours the *Netherlands*) thoſe back-doors be dammed up by taking ſuch an Oath; and moreover doth not at preſent the Royal Party dare with boldneſs aſſert and maintain, laying Wagers to one that the Chief in Parliament and Army will refuſe the ſame, and upon that do openly declare their great hopes, which would be ſoon over if thoſe Worthies would be but ſenſible thereof, and put no further delayes in a buſineſs of ſo great concernment to the ſettlement of the *Nation* and Commonwealth.

The ſecond Objection which is found in the mouths of many which are not better then kinglings, but would put it off upon a caſe of Conſcience (viz.) *That in caſe God who is the Omnipotent over all Governments of the world, ſhould in his Providence ſeem good to bring back ſome of the Line of the late King to be Ruler over theſe Nations*, then ſay they, *if we ſhould take ſuch an Oath of Abjuration or Renunciation, we ſhould be found to have reſiſted the Will of God.*

For Anſwer, God is juſt and Righteous in all his Diſpenſations and Providences, and for any Perſon that hath ſeen and ſeveral times returned thanks unto him for his wonderful and miraculous Providences in owning a Cauſe ſo much contended for, by giving ſo many ſignal and marvellous Victories and Deliverances to this Parliament and their Forces, againſt the late King & Family in ſeveral conflicts, and that at ſuch a time when he was very formidable, and his party

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and Armies consisted of most of the Nobility and Gentry of the three Nations, and yet God by making use of a company of men of low Estate and condition, and not brought up in the Military Art, did in such wonderful manner own and prosper them in that War against the King and his Son, that at length the Father was by his Divine Providence brought to the block, and the Sons endeavours all blasted and brought to nought, I say when men have been eye witnesses of such extraordinary Providences, in not onely blasting and disowning Kingship in that Family, but likewise in the late family of the Apostate *Cromwells* who attempted the same, and that by a Parliamentary way; And besides for such as have made War against Kingship and against that Family, and Voted the Kingly office useless, dangerous and chargeable, making it Treason to promove *Charles Stuart* or any other to be chief Magistrate of *England*, selling all the suppore of Kingship and all other Estate belonging to it; And seeing also the Parliament after several interruptions (during which time several endeavours were used to bring kingship again) to be miraculously restored, & to live to see God take vengeance of all those who had been chief Actors in endeavouring to inthrall us under the yoke of the *Cromwells*, &c. for such I say again after all this not to be convinced of the lawfulness of renouncing or disclaiming that whole line and others pretenders to it, is certainly to doubt of Gods constancy and Justice, there being as much conscience or reason to plead the same providence against abjuring, renouncing or disclaiming the *Popes* Supremacie over these Nations, who for during far longer time had Dominion and Jurisdiction over them, so that upon the whole matter, it cannot be imagined that if the pleasure of God was such as to suffer any of that Family or other, to Rule over these Nations, that it can be to any other end then as a scourge and Plague to the Nations and to those persons in particular who are so incredulous and timerous, who with many other in the Nation may be compared to those of the *Israelites*, who (after their wonderful deliverance from under the yoke of King *Pharaoh*) did murmure while they were in the wilderness, desiring to return to their former State and condition of slavery and bondage, by reason they could

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not enjoy the Garlick and Onions of Egypt, not minding the Land of *Canaan* and of plenty, towards which they were going, which is the condition of many murmurers in these Nations who cannot or rather will not see nor dive into the Freedom and plenty to be had and enjoyed under a Democratical or Free-state Government, which is the thing now aimed and laboured hard for, and which without doubt had long since been obtained and enjoyed, but for the endeavours and desires of so many in the Nation to return to their *Egyptian* bondage and slavery.

Lastly, An expedient is by some learned men, proposed and offered in lieu of taking *the Oath of Abjuration, Renuntiation* or *Declaration of the Race of the Kings*, &c. say such *a Law may be made whereby it shall be declared to be high Treason for any person to propose, help or endeavour the bringing any of that family or others to be chief Magistrates of England*, &c.

To which it is answered, that such a Law (without first imposing such an oath) cannot oblige any person against the return of any of that line, or the introduction of any other single Person, and that for these reasons.

First, Such a Law doth not bind the Consciences and persons of any as an Oath doth, which is voluntary and personally obliging.

Secondly, Because of late there hath been a sufficient experiment of the same in *Cromwell* and others, assuming to themselves the Government of these *Nations*, although it was here declared high Treason by a known Law so to do.

Thirdly, Because such a Law (although never so strict) may be repealed, which such an Oath can never be.

Fourthly, Because if any one of that family or other should attempt by force to overthrow the Government of these *Nations*, such a Law obliges no man to oppose them, which an Oath doth immediately.

Lastly, Because such a Law cannot discover who that is in the Commonwealth service, that may be an Enemy to it, which an Oath will soon discover, and put all such Enemies both out of the Courts of Justice, as likewise out of the Army and Garrisons.

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